IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended). An elevator system comprising:

an elevator hoistway defined by surrounding structure:

an elevator car and counterweight located in the hoistway;

a drive motor including a drive sheave located at a bottom portion of the hoistway, the drive motor being coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway, wherein the at lease one flat rope includes a suspension rope coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight, and drive rope engaging the drive sheave for moving the elevator car along the suspension rope; and

~~as defined in claim 2,~~ further including at least one elevator sheave coupled to an underside of the elevator car, a deflector sheave coupled within an upper portion of the hoistway, and a counterweight sheave coupled to a top portion of the counterweight, the suspension rope having its first and second ends coupled to an upper portion of the hoistway, the suspension rope extending downwardly from is first end, underslinging the elevator car via the elevator sheave, extending upwardly and looping about the deflector sheave, extending downwardly and looping about the counterweight sheave and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end.

Claims 5- 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended). An elevator system comprising:

an elevator hoistway defined by surrounding structure:

an elevator car and counterweight located in the hoistway;

a drive motor including a drive sheave located at a bottom portion of the hoistway, the drive motor being coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car upwardly and downwardly along the hoistway, wherein the at lease one flat rope includes a suspension rope coupled to the elevator car and the counterweight, and drive rope engaging the drive sheave for moving the elevator car along the suspension rope;

a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, and wherein the drive rope has first and second ends, the drive rope having its first end coupled to a bottom portion of the counterweight and its second end coupled to a bottom portion of the elevator car, the drive rope extending downwardly from its first end, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave and extending upwardly and terminating at its second end at the bottom portion of the elevator car; and

a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition, ~~as defined in claim 6,~~ wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

Claims 8-20 (canceled).

Claim 21 (currently amended). An elevator system comprising:

an elevator hoistway;

an elevator car located in the hoistway;

a drive motor located at a bottom portion of the hoistway, the drive motor being coupled to the elevator car via at least one flat rope for moving the elevator car along the hoistway, wherein the at least one flat rope includes a suspension rope could to the elevator car and a drive rope engaging the drive motor for moving the elevator car;

a deflector sheave located at a lower portion of the hoistway, wherein the drive rope is engaged with the elevator car, the drive rope extending downwardly from the car, looping about the drive sheave, extending toward and looping about the deflector sheave; and

a tension applying mechanism for imparting a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taut condition, ~~as defined in claim 20,~~ wherein the tension applying mechanism includes a weight suspended from a tension spring, and a rigid connector pivotally coupled at a first end to the drive sheave, coupled at a second end to the weight and coupled between its first and second ends to the deflector sheave, whereby the weight imparts a downward force on the deflector sheave in order to maintain the drive rope in a taught condition.

Claims 22-28 (canceled).